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NSC BRIEFING

3 December 1953

SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON  
NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR

I. Comments of Soviet Official

- A. The Soviet director of Amtorg (Soviet purchasing agency in the U.S.) is still showing a strong interest in increased exports to the United States, particularly in furs.
- B. In the last month or two, Stalin's name has reappeared more often in the Soviet papers. However, the references are still less frequent than while he was living.
- C. This Soviet official, in commenting on this fact, said "We are heading again for different things; the line is changed again".

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II. Significance of These Remarks

- A. The rather moderately increased press reference to Stalin - particularly noted during the anniversary celebrations - is in itself no indication of a significant policy change.
- B. There has been no let-up in the Soviet internal conciliatory policy.
- C. At the time this official spoke, Soviet foreign policy appeared to have grown less conciliatory and seemed to be avoiding any high-level talks. The 26 November Soviet note seems to have reopened the door to four-power talks, but indicates that the Kremlin will maintain that the conference must be expanded to include Communist China.

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